

**SELECTION STATEMENT  
FOR  
INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION (IV&V) SERVICES**

On October 18, 2011, I, along with key senior officials from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) and Headquarters, met with the Source Evaluation Board (SEB) appointed to evaluate proposals in connection with the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Services procurement.

**Procurement Description and History**

The principal purpose of this requirement is to perform IV&V support services for selected software systems being developed by or for NASA, other Federal, State and local government agencies, commercial entities and/or other organizations and institutions as directed by the government. The mission of the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Program is to reduce the inherent risk in the Agency's ability to procure, develop, deploy and operate software within desired cost, schedule and performance goals. Primary objectives include: 1) performing IV&V on safety and mission critical software; 2) providing software assurance expertise to the Agency's SMA activities; 3) conducting research that improves IV&V and software assurance methods, practices and tools; 4) performing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) outreach; and 5) performing management and institutional services with excellence.

To support this mission, there exists a core set of functions performed by the IV&V Program.

1. Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V)
2. Research and Development (R&D)
3. Technical Quality and Excellence (TQ&E)
4. Software Assurance Tools (SWAT) Support
5. Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) Support
6. Management

As a result of this full and open competitive procurement, it is the intent of the Government to award a Cost plus Award Fee type contract.

A synopsis of the major procurement milestone dates in the IV&V procurement follows:

<b><u>Major Procurement Milestones</u></b>	<b><u>Date Completed</u></b>
Request For Proposal (RFP) Released	03/02/2011
Proposals Received	04/05/2011
SSA Presentation/Selection	10/18/2011

Two RFP amendments were issued. Amendment 001, issued on March 17, 2011, revised portions of Section L. Amendment 002, issued September 29, 2011 was issued to change the period of performance of the base period and all options and align them to the fiscal year. This change was

precipitated by the issuance of NASA Procurement Information Circular 11-05 on August 19, 2011 entitled, "Funding and Term of Service Contracts" The amendment resulted in no changes to the proposed costs.

### **Evaluation Procedures**

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with FAR 15.3, "Source Selection," and NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) 1815.3, same subject, and the IV&V Services RFP evaluation criteria. The RFP stated that the factors used for evaluation are Mission Suitability, Cost, and Past Performance. The RFP specified the relative order of importance of the evaluation factors as follows:

"The Cost Factor is significantly less important than the combined importance of the Mission Suitability Factor and the Past Performance Factor. As individual factors, the Cost Factor is less important than the Mission Suitability Factor but equally as important as the Past Performance Factor."

The RFP established that only the Mission Suitability Factor would be assigned a numerical score in the evaluation process. In accordance with NFS 1815.304-70(b)(1), the Mission Suitability factor was weighted and scored on a 1000 point scale using the following three (3) subfactors:

	<u>Points</u>
Subfactor A - Technical Approach/Capability	450
Subfactor B - Management Approach	450
Subfactor C – Small Business Utilization (SBU)	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	1,000

The Mission Suitability subfactors were evaluated using the adjectival rating, definitions, and percentile ranges at NFS 1815.305(a) (3) (A). The maximum points available for each subfactor were multiplied by the offeror's assessed percent ratings to derive the numerical score for the particular subfactor.

The SEB conducted an independent Mission Suitability evaluation of each proposal in accordance with the criteria set forth in the solicitation, and agreed upon written findings. The SEB met and reached consensus on adjectival ratings and percent ratings for each of the subfactors. Each percent rating was then applied to the available points for the respective subfactor to determine the score for that subfactor. Then, the individual subfactor scores were summed to determine the overall Mission Suitability scoring.

In accordance with the RFP provision M.4, COST EVALUATION FACTOR, the proposed costs were assessed to determine reasonableness and cost realism. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with FAR 15.305(a)(1) and NFS 1815.305(a)(1)(B). Both the "proposed" and "probable cost" reflected the offeror's proposed fee amount. Proposed fee was not adjusted in the probable cost assessment.

In accordance with RFP Section M.5, PAST PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FACTOR, an evaluation was conducted of each offeror's record (including the records of any significant subcontractors) of performing services similar in size, content, and complexity to the requirements

of this solicitation in terms. Past contracts were assessed and described in terms of both relevancy component (from Very Highly Relevant to Minimally Relevant, based on size, content and complexity), and the contractors' performance component (Very High, High, Moderate, Low, Very Low). The Past Performance factor was not assigned a numerical score, but was assigned an overall adjectival Level of Confidence rating of Very High, High, Moderate, Low, Very Low, or Neutral. Each adjectival Level of Confidence rating included both the "relevancy" component and the "performance" component of the past contracts considered. The overall Level of Confidence rating assigned to Past Performance reflected a subjective evaluation of the information contained in the offeror's past performance written narrative; past performance evaluation input provided through customer questionnaires; and other references.

On April 5, 2011, four (4) timely proposals were received from the following companies:

- GHG Corporation (GHG)
- Honeywell Technical Solutions Inc. (HTSI)
- L-3 Services (L-3)
- TASC, Inc. (TASC)

On August 22, 2011, the proposal submitted by GHG Corporation was determined to be unacceptable and therefore eliminated from the competition.

A full briefing of the results of the evaluation conducted by the SEB was presented to me on October 18, 2011.

### **SEB Findings and Evaluation**

The following chart provides the adjective rating results for each offeror by subfactor:

<b>Mission Suitability Subfactor</b>	<b>Offeror</b>		
	<b>HTSI</b>	<b>L-3</b>	<b>TASC</b>
Subfactor A: Technical Approach/Capability	Very Good	Excellent	Very Good
Subfactor B: Management Approach	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Subfactor C: Small Business Utilization (SBU)	Very Good	Good	Excellent
Total Mission Suitability Score	846	859	903

#### **Mission Suitability:**

The evaluation results for the Mission Suitability Factor for HTSI, L-3 and TASC are as follows:

#### **HTSI:**

Under Subfactor A, the HTSI proposal received one (1) significant strength, one (1) strength, one (1) significant weakness, and two (2) weaknesses for a subfactor rating of "Very Good".

The HTSI proposal received a significant strength for a combination of innovations that greatly enhance the potential to advance the state of the IV&V practice by identifying and addressing

emerging IV&V project needs, as well as addressing the overall advancement of IV&V, software assurance, software engineering and systems engineering.

The HTSI proposal received a strength for its proposed approach to Software Assurance Tool Support (SWAT).

The HTSI proposal received a significant weakness because the proposal lacked detail in the Selected Projects/Activities (SPA); specifically in regards to the rationale to implement and staff each identified IV&V project and an overall omission of a SPA response for Research and Development and Software Assurance Tools.

The HTSI proposal received two (2) weaknesses in Subfactor A. The HTSI proposal received its first weakness because it lacked sufficient detail regarding the application of the Technical Reference. The HTSI proposal received its second weakness because its proposed approach to Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) Support did not reveal a clear or comprehensive understanding of the key purpose of this activity nor did it demonstrate how and where the SMA tasks must be performed.

Under Subfactor B, the HTSI proposal received two (2) significant strengths and five (5) strengths for a subfactor rating of “Excellent”. The HTSI proposal received its first significant strength with a superiorly balanced and comprehensive approach to obtain and keep a stable, competent, and committed workforce that incorporates not only excellent compensation and benefits but also strongly ties in “Career Development and Talent Management” and workplace environment.

HTSI received their second significant strength because their Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) exceeds contract requirements by going beyond a simple quality check of the IV&V Services’ products and activities to encompass an integral approach that assures that QA concepts and principles are implemented and used throughout the contract.

The HTSI proposal received five (5) strengths in Subfactor B. The HTSI proposal received its first strength because its proposed integrated project management approach is very effective and efficient for managing the IV&V Services contract. HTSI’s overall management approach, including the proposed methods, processes, procedures and tools, and continuous improvement activities, demonstrates a unified approach to efficiently manage the contract.

The HTSI proposal received its second strength from its exceptional risk management strategy that establishes a culture that promotes both technical and managerial risk awareness, and identifies a dedicated Risk Manager.

The HTSI proposal received its third strength from its proposed phase-in approach which provides a proven, aggressive process with a 30-day schedule, a dedicated Phase-In Manager and Review Board, discrete work packages and a comprehensive risk management process.

The HTSI received a fourth strength for their innovative approach for using part of the award fee as an additional incentive to maximize subcontractor performance. HTSI will evaluate subcontractor performance as the basis for determining the amount of additional award fee the subcontractor will receive.

Finally the HTSI proposal received its fifth strength for its technical approach of creating appropriate vehicles/agreements with the other IV&V contractors ensuring there will be no overlap or gaps of services among them, and that all parties understand their responsibilities for fulfilling the Government's need.

Under Subfactor C, the HTSI proposal received one (1) significant strength and one (1) strength for a subfactor rating of "Very Good". The HTSI proposal received this significant strength as a result of HTSI's proposed overall small business subcontracting goal for Total Small Business concerns which significantly exceeds the Government's recommended goal (GRG) of 25%.

The HTSI proposal received a strength because it identified areas of the Statement of Work where small business subcontractors across all socioeconomic categories will be performing high technology work.

### **L-3:**

Under Subfactor A, the L-3 proposal received two (2) significant strengths and one (1) strength for a subfactor rating of "Excellent". The L-3 proposal received its first significant strength for its thorough Technical Reference (TR) development and application approach as well as additional insight into their innovative IV&V Assurance Case (IAC) methodology.

The L-3 proposal received its second significant strength for its demonstration of a thorough understanding of the key requirements for Research and Development and proposes a methodology that provides a sound and effective cradle-to-grave approach to the performance of R&D. L-3 placed a strong emphasis on engaging IV&V Projects throughout the development of R&D solutions in order to promote/facilitate the integration of research results into practice.

The L-3 proposal received a strength because its proposed approach to IV&V Project Closeout is thorough and proposes the use of continual (i.e., performs throughout project execution) processes and procedures for performing Project Closeout. This approach enhances the likelihood of identifying and documenting key lessons from project execution.

Under Subfactor B, the L-3 proposal received one (1) significant strength, three (3) strengths and one (1) weakness for a subfactor rating of "Very Good". The L-3 proposal received its significant strength because it proposed a very effective staffing plan to ensure that a highly qualified and skilled workforce with significant domain expertise will be available to meet the on-going contract requirements, including the International Space Station (ISS) IV&V effort.

The L-3 proposal received its first strength because it demonstrates a low-risk approach to phase-in that will have minimal impact, assuming full contract responsibilities on the effective date of the contract, largely due to the fact that it currently provides nearly 2/3 of the proposed IV&V services, as well as ISS IV&V services. L-3 provided a detailed approach to their transition, listing the Phase-In Organization, specific roles and responsibilities, the transition process, schedule, risks and mitigations, assumption of on-going work, and incumbent capture.

The L-3 proposal received a second strength because it proposes to have Associate Contractor Agreements (ACA's) in place with each of the other IV&V service contractors which will

establish clear lines of communications and assure unambiguous roles and responsibilities, as well as assure there will be no overlaps or gaps in services provided to IV&V.

The L-3 proposal received its third strength for its proposed Quality Assurance Plan which contains proprietary innovative processes and procedures and an integrated approach to assure the quality of IV&V products.

The L-3 proposal received a weakness in its discussion of the Program Management approach. L-3 did not propose a full-time Program Manager to perform overall management functions of the contract, nor adequately explain why a full time Program Manager is not necessary. L-3 also did not provide a description of their Quality Assurance Manager's function.

Under Subfactor C, the L-3 proposal received one (1) strength for a subfactor rating of "Good". The L-3 proposal received this strength because it identified areas of the Statement of Work where small business subcontractors across all socioeconomic categories will be performing high technology work. L-3 demonstrated a strong commitment to Small Business subcontracting by having signed teaming agreements.

#### **TASC:**

Under Subfactor A, the TASC proposal received one (1) significant strength, three (3) strengths and two (2) weaknesses for a subfactor rating of "Very Good".

The TASC proposal received a significant strength because it proposed a superb Technical Approach and a comprehensive plan to achieve and promote NASA IV&V's Program as a Center of Excellence for IV&V technology and processes. TASC not only identifies improvements to existing NASA IV&V tools and processes to increase productivity; it presents an insightful and detailed list of Research and Development (R&D) projects focused on expanding NASA IV&V capabilities in the first contract year, and describes a disciplined Technology Change Management strategy to guide the R&D program over the next several years. TASC's plan sets forth many far reaching improvements to advance the state of the practice of IV&V while assuring a continuity of IV&V Services.

The TASC proposal received its first strength because it proposed a clear and detailed approach to the selection of IV&V methods to be applied as well as the approach to tailoring methods/identifying new methods when existing methods are insufficient. TASC provided valuable insight into resource assignment during the Planning State and the factors considered when assessing the appropriate skill set for a given project.

The TASC proposal received its second strength for its proposed enhancement and utilization of the IV&V Program's Independent Test Capability (ITC).

The TASC proposal received its third strength for its proposed training of personnel across IV&V projects and SMA projects as well as a greater involvement with R&D and SWAT. This provides personnel with broader experience for both IV&V projects and SMA support projects as well as information sharing across the two activities, and allows for the SMA Support Office (SSO) to provide staffing change support. TASC has proposed an increased interface structure with NASA SMA, OSMA, and other IV&V Services in order to assure knowledge transfer and understanding.

They have also proposed working with SWAT and R&D to support tools for and solutions to possible SMA risks.

The TASC proposal received its first weakness because the proposal lacked sufficient detail regarding the application of the Technical Reference. There was sparse information regarding the utilization of the Technical Reference during the IV&V Execution Phase and limited information regarding the practical application within the Selected Projects/Activities (SPAs).

The TASC proposal received its second weakness because TASC did not adequately identify risks in the provided responses for the Selected Project/Activities (SPAs).

Under Subfactor B, the TASC proposal received two (2) significant strengths, five (5) strengths and one (1) weakness for a subfactor rating of “Excellent”. The TASC proposal received its first significant strength because its proposed Phase-In Plan (PIP) provided a detailed approach to transition, listing the dedicated Phase-In Team and Transition Manager, an aggressive 30-day schedule, risks and corresponding mitigations, incumbent capture, and a comprehensive PIP checklist.

The TASC proposal received its second significant strength because of its integrated management approach, demonstrating an excellent understanding of the key management requirements and challenges. TASC proposed a very effective project centric methodology to the management of technical work that will promote optimization of resources, quality, and consistency across the contract. TASC presented an organizational structure, and a “no surprises” approach that facilitates clear and unambiguous communication pathways, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities that function independent of company affiliation.

The TASC proposal received its first strength for a comprehensive staffing plan to meet the ongoing IV&V requirements, including the ISS IV&V work, as well as emergent and fluctuating work requirements.

The TASC proposal received a second strength for providing a web-based integrated data environment to support the performance of project and program planning, resource allocation, knowledge management, and obtaining project status. This offers increased visibility, interoperability, tailorability, and centralized access to information.

The TASC proposal received a third strength for its highly integrated subcontractor management approach, with a “badgeless” integration of subcontractors, which ensures workload optimization and seamless execution of IV&V Services contract requirements.

The TASC proposal received a fourth strength for its Total Compensation Plan, Staffing Plan, and Award Fee sharing approach. Combined, this very comprehensive approach and understanding of its workforce needs is structured to obtain and keep the most highly qualified and motivated personnel to work on NASA’s IV&V projects and support functions.

Finally, TASC received a fifth strength because it provides a favorable Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) posture as an IV&V services provider, coupled with an effective OCI identification and mitigation strategy for subcontractors.

The TASC proposal received a weakness because it's proposed Quality Assurance Plan did not demonstrate how the quality assurance knowledge and documentation would be effectively applied to the NASA IV&V Services contract nor did it include the use of technical performance measures or customer feedback.

Under Subfactor C, the TASC proposal received one (1) significant strength and two (2) strengths for a subfactor rating of "Excellent". The TASC proposal received a significant strength because it demonstrated an extremely strong commitment to Small Business subcontracting by teaming with 10 small businesses that will be responsible for performing high technology work identified in the Statement of Work, covering all six of the socioeconomic categories in the RFP.

The TASC proposal received the first strength because its overall small business subcontracting goal for Total Small Business and Women-Owned Small Business concerns exceeds the Government's recommended goal (GRG) of 25% and 4.5%, respectively.

The TASC proposal received a second strength because it demonstrated a high commitment to small business outreach and participation in the Mentor Protégé Program, managed by the Small Business Liaison Officer.

### **Cost:**

HTSI had the lowest proposed and probable cost. The SEB made adjustments to the HTSI proposal which increased the probable cost. An efficiency factor was removed for years 2 through 5 which increased the probable cost for these years. The labor hours and costs were reduced for a project due to HTSI's assumption that this project was a full IV&V project rather than an Independent Assessment (IA) as specified in the Mission Forecast. The labor hours and costs for another project were increased due to adjustments to the parameters of the mission. The SEB made adjustments to HTSI's proposed priority factor, software code complexity parameter and software lines of code. The labor hours and costs for a third project were also increased based on the changes made to HTSI's proposed software code complexity parameter and the software lines of code for this project.

L-3 had the highest proposed and probable cost. The SEB made two minor adjustments to the L-3 proposal which moderately decreased the probable cost. The program manager hours were adjusted upward to a full time position and the direct labor rates were reduced based on DCAA findings.

TASC proposed a higher estimated cost than HTSI and a lower estimated cost than L-3. The SEB made no probable cost adjustments to their proposal.

## **Past Performance:**

HTSI's Past Performance Level of Confidence rating of "Moderate" was based on the following assessments:

HTSI had two (2) contracts that were considered relevant and one (1) contract that was considered minimally relevant. The NASA Contract Assurance Services (NCAS) contract was considered relevant with a past performance rating of "High". The Mission Operations and Mission Services (MOMS) contract was considered relevant with a past performance rating of "High". The SEB team reviewed three years (3) of past performance data in the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS) and considered the Satellite Control Network Contract as minimally relevant with a past performance rating of "Moderate". The majority of the individual performance ratings primarily were "Satisfactory" or "Marginal". HTSI's subcontractor submitted past performance information for HTSI but was not considered relevant because they did not meet the \$5M annual threshold for minimal size relevancy for significant subcontractors.

The SEB determined that HTSI's data supports an overall "Moderate" Level of Confidence to successfully perform the IV&V required effort. HTSI's relevant past performance is pertinent to this acquisition, demonstrating effective performance that would be fully responsive to contract requirements, with reportable problems with little identifiable effect on overall performance. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a moderate level of confidence that the HTSI will successfully perform the required effort. Although HTSI demonstrated high performance ratings, the relevancy kept them in the "Moderate" range.

L-3's Past Performance Level of Confidence rating of "High" was based on the following assessments:

L-3 had one (1) contract that was considered very highly relevant and two (2) considered highly relevant. The NASA Independent Verification and Validation Services contract where L-3 serves as an incumbent was considered very highly relevant with a Past Performance Rating of "High". The Simulation and Software Technology (SSTC) contract was considered highly relevant with a Past Performance Rating of "High". The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) Joint Deployable Intelligence Support Systems (JDISS) was considered highly relevant with a Past Performance Rating of "High". L-3 submitted past performance information on the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Office of Space Launch (OSL) contract, however it was not considered because it did not meet the size relevancy requirements of \$8M/year.

The SEB determined that L-3's data supports an overall "High" Level of Confidence to successfully perform the IV&V required effort. L-3's relevant past performance is highly pertinent to this acquisition, demonstrating very effective performance that would be fully responsive to contract requirements, with contract requirements accomplished in a timely, efficient, and economical manner for the most part, with only minor problems with little identifiable effect on overall performance. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a high level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort. Although L-3 submitted a very highly relevant contract, its overall performance on all contracts kept it in the "High" confidence rating level.

TASC's Past Performance Level of Confidence rating of "High" was based on the following assessments:

The TASC Team had four (4) contracts that were considered highly relevant and one (1) that was considered relevant. The performance ratings given in the survey responses were positive. The overall technical performance for TASC and its proposed subcontractor team was rated by their customers as "Very High" to "Moderate". Based on the TASC's Team's relevant performance record, there is a high level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the IV&V effort.

The SEB determined that TASC's data supports an overall "High" Level of Confidence to successfully perform the IV&V required effort. TASC's relevant past performance is highly pertinent to this acquisition, demonstrating very effective performance that would be fully responsive to contract requirements with contract requirements accomplished in a timely, efficient, and economical manner for the most part, with only minor problems with little identifiable effect on overall performance. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a high level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

### **Source Selection Decision**

I have carefully reviewed the SEB's October 18, 2011 presentation. During the presentation, I considered the detailed findings the SEB presented. I noted that the SEB presentation supported each finding with extensive details. In addition to reading the findings and supporting details, I solicited and considered the views of all of the attendees from the presentation, including key senior officials from GSFC and Headquarters. These key senior officials have responsibility related to this acquisition and provided input on the application of the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP.

In determining which proposal offered the best value to NASA, I referred to the relative order of importance of the three evaluation factors as specified in the RFP:

"The Cost Factor is significantly less important than the combined importance of the Mission Suitability Factor and the Past Performance Factor. As individual factors, the Cost Factor is less important than the Mission Suitability Factor but equally as important as the Past Performance Factor."

My selection was based on a comparative assessment of each proposal against each of the source selection factors.

Overall, the evaluation presented by the SEB provided a clear understanding of the differences in the Mission Suitability ratings of all offerors. I accept the Mission Suitability findings of the SEB as reflected in the evaluation report. HTSI, L-3 and TASC were all rated favorably in the Mission Suitability Factor.

In making my selection, I placed the most importance on mission suitability. I put equal emphasis on the offeror's technical approach/capability and management approach. Of course, the Small Business plan, Past Performance and Cost were also important to my overall selection decision. One of the significant discriminating factors in making this selection for award concerned the

transition of this contract. The management plan needed to include a credible, comprehensive, and aggressive transition plan since there is going to be a disruption to the workforce while the current two contracts are reduced to one contract. This disruption must be minimized due to the continuing work at the IV&V facility during the transition. In evaluating the various strengths and weaknesses of the individual contractors, I was particularly impressed with TASC's transition plan, which the SEB properly rated as a significant strength. I was impressed, to a lesser degree, with the transition plans offered by HTSI and L-3, although I agreed that they both deserved a strength. While all offerors offered strong transition plans, the TASC plan was clearly superior. It offers a comprehensive, aggressive 30-day schedule, provides the phase-in at no additional cost to the government, and also demonstrated an ability to assume full contract responsibility on the contract start date.

Another important area that required an exceptional plan is a management and communication approach that deals effectively with the effects of the overall declining budgets with which the Agency is faced. The required management approach needed to show an understanding of the key management requirements and challenges while promoting optimization of resources and quality of product. Again, TASC was correctly evaluated as having a significant strength in this area. I agreed with the SEB that TASC demonstrated an excellent understanding of the key management requirements and challenges. TASC proposed a very effective project centric methodology to the management of technical work that will promote optimization of resources, quality, and consistency across the contract. TASC presented an organizational structure, and a "no surprises" approach that facilitates clear and unambiguous communication pathways, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities that function independent of company affiliation. I believe that this component of the TASC proposal provides an exceptional value to NASA for the future of the Agency and IV&V.

In reviewing the HTSI Mission Suitability area, I found that a significant weakness identified by the SEB in the Technical Approach/Capability subfactor was especially noteworthy. I agreed with the SEB that as a result of the limited degree of specificity of method selection and application, the overall confidence in HTSI's ability to implement the technical approach proposed for each of the Selected Projects/Activities (SPA) is greatly reduced. The SPAs were designed to demonstrate the offeror's ability to logically construct a plan, consistent with their identified approach, to implement each SPA. The offeror's proposal provides insufficient insight into the actual methods to be applied, and does not demonstrate the offeror's understanding of what methods will be utilized or how the methods would be applied. This appreciably increased the risk of unsuccessful contract performance. When this significant weakness is combined with the "Moderate Confidence" Past Performance rating, it creates a substantial risk for award.

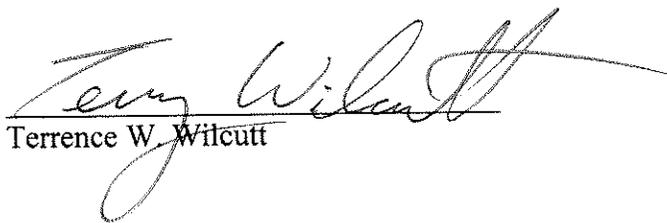
In analyzing the actual scores and ratings of the three offerors, the two companies with the highest Mission Suitability scores were L-3 and TASC. Looking at the subfactors, L-3 had the highest technical approach/capability score and TASC had the highest management plan score. Both of these factors are equally weighted, and when combined, TASC had the highest combined score of technical and management. Additionally, as mentioned above, in determining Mission Suitability, the Small Business subfactor is worth an additional 100 points. In this subfactor, TASC had a substantially higher score than L-3 and was rated as "Excellent," which is two rating levels above the L-3 score of "Good". This is a discriminating difference in this subfactor. In summation, although both companies provided strong mission suitability proposals, the overall TASC mission suitability proposal was superior to L-3's.

The Past Performance comparison between L-3 and TASC revealed both offerors were evaluated as offering a "High" Level of Confidence based on their individual Past Performance. HTSI received only a "Moderate" Level of Confidence rating. Both L-3 and TASC were evaluated higher than HTSI in both Mission Suitability and Past Performance, my selection decision would necessarily come down to distinguishing between those two offerors. However, as a result of their similarly high Past Performance ratings between L-3 and TASC, Past Performance was not a discriminating area in my selection decision between L-3 and TASC.

The last factor used in comparing offerors was cost. There was a significant difference in the proposed and probable cost to the government among all three offerors. TASC's probable cost was significantly less than L-3's probable cost, with HTSI having the lowest probable cost. Although, HTSI proposed the lowest cost, they had the lowest Mission Suitability score, which carries significantly more weight than their lower cost, especially when combined with their past performance rating of a "Moderate" Level of Confidence.

In summary, although HTSI had the lowest probable cost, they also had the lowest score in Mission Suitability and only a "Moderate" Level of Confidence. HTSI's lower probable cost, as mandated in the RFP, is "significantly less important than the combined importance of the Mission Suitability factor and the Past Performance factor." Due to HTSI having the lowest ratings of all three competitors in two of the three factors (Mission Suitability and Past Performance), this made HTSI the least competitive of the three offerors for selection. Recognizing TASC proposal comes at a higher cost than HTSI's, TASC's more specific methods, exceptional transition plan, and its superior management and communication approaches provide the best value to the government by providing the best solution for undisrupted services, optimization of resources and quality of product for the IV&V Program. Between L-3 and TASC, the TASC proposal was scored substantially higher within the Mission Suitability factor with a significantly higher rating in their Small Business plan, and offered significant savings when compared to the L-3 offer. I found insufficient technical or other advantages to the L-3 proposal to warrant L-3's substantially larger cost.

Accordingly, I select TASC for award of the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Services contract.

  
Terrence W. Wilcuff

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Date 11/28/2011